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TAB C

COMMUNIST CHINA'S AIR DEFENSE CAPABILITIES

1. Present Chinese Communist air defense capabilities are due directly to Soviet active participation in supplying equipment, operational procedures, training, and, in many cases, Soviet personnel. In assessing such capabilities, the following factors are pertinent:

(a) Fighter Aircraft. Approximately 525 first-line jet fighters of the MIG-15 type are located in the Mukden-Antung area of southern Manchuria. Some 225 jet fighters are located in the following four strategic areas in China proper: Peiping-Tientsin, Tsingtao, Shanghai, and Canton.

(b) Early Warning. A radar defense system has been installed and set in operation, with the assistance of Soviet radar engineers, technicians, and advisers, which is believed to give practically continuous early-warning coverage from the Manchuria border south to Canton. A visual system supplements the electronic early-warning system.

(c) Antiaircraft. In China-Manchuria there is believed to be over 500 antiaircraft artillery pieces and an equal number of anti-aircraft automatic weapons. Most pieces are 85 mm., 37 mm., and 12.7 mm. of Soviet manufacture. Reports continue to indicate that

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the total AAA strength is being increased by shipments of Soviet equipment. Heaviest concentrations are located in the Mukden area, Shanghai, and in the vicinity of Canton. AAA defenses appear to be employed for the protection of the industrial area, harbor facilities, airfields, and major junctions in the communications and supply systems. Gun-laying radar has been reported in some areas.

(d) Aircraft Control. The Chinese Communists possibly have a capability for limited ground-controlled interception.

(e) Soviet Influence. The air defense organization of the Chinese Communists appears to be patterned after that of the Soviets. The over-all air defense capabilities of this defense organization with respect to fighter defense, antiaircraft defense, early warning, aircraft control, and passive defense measures probably will continue to increase as long as the Soviets continue to assist Communist China.

2. The air defense capabilities of the Chinese Communists are estimated to be as follows:

(a) In the Mukden-Antung area of southern Manchuria, the Chinese Communists possess a major air defense capability against daylight bombing missions. At night their air defense capabilities would be considerably less because of their limited ground-controlled interception ability. (See 1a above.)

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(b) Chinese Communist air defense capabilities for China proper are considerably less due to a greater area and fewer available aircraft. In areas where distance prevents likely immediate jet air reinforcements, i.e., Shanghai and Canton, the defense capability of the small jet strengths presently allocated to those areas is considered negligible as against a major air offensive in daylight attacks or night missions. In the Peiping-Tientsin and Tsingtao areas, which are considered mutually supporting, a substantial jet strength of some 150 MIG-15's presents a very formidable defensive capability if sufficient early warning was given to enable this strength to be used as a single force. The geographic position of Tsingtao creates a greater vulnerability to air attack than does that of Peiping-Tientsin. Against a major air attack, however, the defense capability of some 75 MIG-15's located at Tsingtao is considered at least fair. Due to Tsingtao's protective position, however, the defense capability of Peiping-Tientsin against a major air attack is considered to be good to excellent. The defense capability of those areas is considered negligible against night attacks of major size. It is believed that a major air offensive would encounter flak of limited effectiveness over targets in China proper such as industrial areas, harbor facilities, airfields, and major junctions in the communications and supply systems.

(c) Air defense capabilities of the Chinese Communists, especially in southern Manchuria, are such that considerable losses

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of US aircraft could be expected, at least initially, during a campaign of systematic air attacks. Under conditions of prolonged air attack, the ability of the Chinese Communists to maintain effectiveness would be in direct proportion to the amount of support which the Soviets would continue to render.

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